# the RARS Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

RARS

Worldwide Friendship

September 2005, Number 414

## *The Exciter*

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

## *The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society*

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are $18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are $9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

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## *OFFICERS*

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**TREASURER:** **Greg Seamster KE4PAX**
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RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
224.64 (Temporarily off the air)
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org

FRONT COVER

The Discovery orbiter took off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, right on schedule 7/26 on the Return to Flight mission (STS-114). Discovery's seven-person crew includes six Amateur Radio licensees. The PCSat2 Amateur Radio payload also is aboard. US Astronaut Eileen Collins, KD5EDS, is the commander for mission. The international crew also includes James Kelly, KC5ZSW; Charlie Camarda, KC5ZSY; Wendy Lawrence, KC5KII; Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP; Andy Thomas, KD5CHF/VK5MIR, and Stephen Robinson.

The International Space Station:
Worldwide downlink for voice and packet 145.80
Worldwide packet uplink 145.99
Region 1 voice uplink 145.20
Region 2 and 3 voice uplink 44.49
Worldwide uplink for cross band voice repeater 437.80

**RARS DUES**

**RARS dues are now due for 2005. You can pay online at the RARS website: www.rars.org, or send a check to**

**Greg Seamster KE4PAX**
**1405 Leanne Ct.**
**Raleigh, NC 27606**

*The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting. Electronic mailing is the same week. Printing and mailing may vary.*

***RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS***

***Date:*** ***Every first Tuesday of the Month***
***Location:*** ***Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh***
***Time:*** ***7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.***

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID, the original and a copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

TECHNICAL & TRADERS NET– Saturday evenings on 146.64 after the 8:00pm RARS net

# Announcements

## *NEXT RARS MEETING:*
## *Tuesday, September 6, 2005 7:30 pm*
TBA

### RARS DINNER

Come join us on the **2nd** Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30pm., and things usually wind down by 8pm or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

**Mark Trail Award**

NOAA recently presented a Mark Trail Award to Danny Hampton K4ITL of North Carolina, for support of the agency's NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards Program. NOAA is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Now in its ninth year, the Trail Awards recognize individuals and organizations that use or provide NOAA Weather All-Hazards receivers or transmitters to save lives and protect property. Seventeen award recipients were recognized nationally this year. Hampton, who has been blind since birth, is being honored for his many years as a financial supporter of NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards transmitters and for conducting life threatening maintenance to ensure proper operation. He has located several key radio transmission sites, then donated and maintained the transmitters. A leader in the Amateur Radio Community, he has also worked tirelessly for years supporting the National Weather Service's storm spotter program, SKYWARN, as well as developing and maintaining an amateur radio repeater network.

We would like to welcome the following new members to RARS. Thank you for considering us for your radio club.

Mike KB4BKH Mike N2SRO

### PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

**OCTOBER 8—The 7th Annual Autism Ribbon Run. Location Downtown Raleigh. More info to come. Coordinator (OPEN) Contact: Dick kd4isc@arrl.net**

**MS-150 Sat-Sun September 10-11. 40 hams are needed. Please make your motel reservations NOW. Need 40 hams for 2 days.**
**Check website for accommodations http://nationalmssociety.org/nct/home/**
**Contact: Bruce n8uty@arrl.net, to volunteer.**

### *HAMFEST CALENDAR*

| | |
|---|---|
| September 3-4 | Shelby, NC |
| September 17-18 | Virginia Bch, VA |
| October 9 | Maysville, NC |
| October 29 | Myrtle Beach, SC |
| **November 20** | **Benson, NC** |
| December 3 | Gastonia, NC |
| January 6, 2006* | Winston-Salem |
| February 19* | Richmond, VA |
| February 25 | Elkin, NC |
| March 5* | Kinston, NC |
| March 11-12 | Charlotte, NC |
| April 15* | Morganton, NC |
| **April 9** | **RALEIGH, NC** |

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal
*Date is not confirmed

**Minutes of the RARS**
**Board of Directors Meeting for June 2005**

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on June 21, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Andy Peterson, NI4S, Dick Bitner, W8HYD, Hank Montgomery, K4HM, Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, Denyse Walter, K4DAW, Jim Walter, K4FIJ, Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, Mary Holtschnieder, KG4OQA, Jon Kerfoot, KG4ZVT, Bernard Blackmon, W4BRB, Chuck Littlewood, K4HF and Dick Orander, KD4ISC. Others – Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL.

President Andy Peterson, NI4S called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

On a motion from Bernard W4BRB and second by Greg KE4PAX, the May Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**Officer's Reports**

Greg KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's Report.

- There are currently 277 club members.
- A membership renewal letter went out in a Monday mailing.
- The budget for the next fiscal year was approved at the June general membership meeting.
- The financial review committee met last night to examine the club's finances for the 2004/05 fiscal year. The results were presented to the Board. Future reviews will continue on an annual basis.

Dick W8HYD provided the Vice President's report.

- A Technician class was started this last Saturday. There are 22 students enrolled. The class will meet each Saturday and continue through July 23 (with the exception of Field Day weekend).
- The program for the July general meeting will be on Geocaching and presented by Tanner Lovelace, KB4TYE.
- The August program will be about the recent 10-10 convention and will be presented by Dick W8HYD.

**Committee Reports**

Education Dick W8HYD and the group discussed the possibility of conducting an antenna (J-pole) building session for one of the meeting programs.

Exciter – Denyse K4DAW reported the last page of the Exciter will be dedicated to membership highlights and the "About RARS Members" feature.

Nets – Mary KG4OQA advised the nets are going well.

Webmaster – Jon KG4ZVT reported that progress continues to be made in updating the RARS website. The July Exciter has been uploaded. The meeting topic has been posted. He is still working on getting the News updated.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM advised the hamfest workers' party will be held on July 9th at Lake Wheeler Park. The club will have access to shelter #2 at 2 pm. He then provided a summary of the 2005 RARSfest Attendee Survey Results as compiled by Chuck K4HF.

Public Service – Andy NI4S announced that Dick KD4ISC has stepped forward to coordinate the July 4th Firecracker Bike event. Further discussion of Public Service was held for later in the meeting.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF reminded members of the approaching Field Day event and that studies show that participation has been increasing over the last few years.

Ad Hoc – the nominating committee for a new public service director that was discussed and formed in last month's meeting has not met yet. The Board discussed the club's public service activities and the need for a public service coordinator. Dick KD4ISC will serve as an interim contact person for the club's public service events until a permanent director is elected or until the end of the year.

**Unfinished Business**

There is still no news on the missing extension cord that was provided by Bruce Buck, KC4UQN, during the December general meeting. Bruce will be advised to purchase a replacement and will be reimbursed by the club.

**New Business**

Mort Shaw, W4MJN, would like to donate a Ten-Tec Argosy radio to the club. Typically the club does not keep equipment. The group discussed the possibility of passing this radio on to our sponsor school for use in their ham shack. Dick W8HYD offered to accept the radio on behalf of the education committee. This discussion led to a general question of the status of the club's asset list. Follow up is needed with Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, who last worked on such a list.

Jon KG4ZVT asked for the Board's comments on accepting a commercial weblink for the RARS webpage. The group agreed that such a link does not belong on our site.

Chuck K4HF made comments thanking Bob K1RCB and Marian K1MRB Breyer for their service to RARS. He then made a motion that the proposal to offer Bob and Marian honorary membership to RARS be brought before the general membership. Dick W8HYD provided a second. The vote carried in favor of the motion.

**General Comments**

Jon KG4ZVT advised that all is going well with the club's website.

Bernard W4BRB reported a 220 repeater may be coming soon.

Greg KE4PAX reminded the group that it's membership renewal time.

Dick KD4ISC thanked Jon KG4ZVT for his work in quickly posting information on the July 4th bike ride event. This has already helped in recruitment. He then suggested that a future membership meeting be designated as a "wear your favorite public service t-shirt" night. Such an activity might rekindle interest in public service. The group liked this idea and suggested August be designated as the "t-shirt" night. This might help in recruitment for the MS-150 held in September.

Denyse K4DAW asked members to complete their "About RARS Members" forms for inclusion in future Exciter issues.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

## MEETING MINUTES

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (RARS)
Meeting Tuesday, August 2, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by President Andy Peterson NI4S.
Three visitors were recognized. VE Testing being held tonight.

Announcements:

NI4S: MS-150 coming up on Sept 9-11 at New Bern. There is a new indoor camping option this year. Still need volunteers. Contact Bruce Arnold at brucearnold@cox.net if you're interested in volunteering.

NI4S: Pigskin Preview coming up. Will need a small number of volunteers. Contact Dick Orander KD4ISC to volunteer.

NI4S: Anyone interested in becoming a board member can contact Andy Peterson NI4S, or any board member.

KN4AQ: Gave a briefing on recent FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making outlining proposal to eliminate code requirement from all amateur radio testing.

Treasurer's Report (Greg Seamster KE4PAX): Currently 195 paid-up members, and total of $44,077 in the treasury.

Program: KN4AQ showed a video he made of the 2005 Field Day. Then Dick W8HYD gave a presentation about the 10-10 International Convention held in June at Scottsdale, AZ. The "10-10 Society" encourages operation on 10 meters, and to become a member one must make a 10 meter contact with 10 "10-10 Society" members.

John Guerrero KG4HDT of ARES spoke about the need for help at ARES.

Door Prizes: NC4VA, K4HM, and KD4DRJ
Adjourned at 8:25pm. Respectfully submitted by Jim Walter K4FIJ.


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**A Mind Opening Experience**
**by Frank A. Lynch, W4FAL**

By now many of the SERA staff and NC Repeater Journal readers have heard that early in July I was diagnosed with a peach sized brain tumor, and had brain surgery on July 7. What was supposed to have only been about a five day hospital stay turned into two weeks due to a lot of blood loss during the seven hour surgery, a severe allergic reaction to dilantin (an anti-seizure drug often given after brain surgery), and an intestinal blockage due to the long period I was put to sleep.

As I write this (July 29) I've been home about 10 days and am progressing along just fine. Even though the tumor was benign, they always treat post operatively these type of tumors with chemo and radiation. All indications are that the type they'll use for this won't have too many side effects.

The doctors speculate that this thing may have been growing for 2 to 3 years. During the last six months I was really feeling poorly, but didn't know what was wrong. Finally they decided to do an MRI and found it. These brain tumors can affect you in ways that are often hard for the patient to see (especially if they effect one's behavior). Several of my close friends had commented to my wife that I didn't seem like myself during the past several months.

Thank all of you that kept me in your thoughts and prayers during this ordeal. The local guys that I know did a super job of passing the word around taking some of that load off my wife and daughter.

I don't yet know when I'll get to return to driving or to work, so for right now I'm just working on building back my strength and getting to do some more than normal ham radio work. I feel like a new person.

73,

Frank A. Lynch W4FAL
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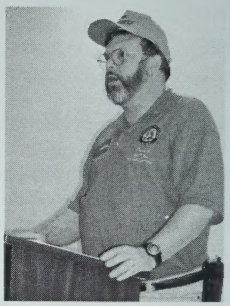

Photo by KN4AQ

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# MEET THE MEMBERS

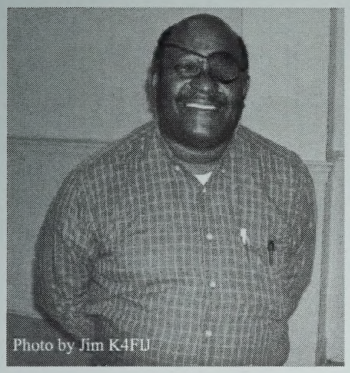
Photo by Jim K4FU

Name: Johnnie Mayfield
Callsign: WA9SZL
Residence: Wendell, Under the Shadow of the Watertower

I remember that Tuesday in May of 1964 very well. I had come home from school. and my mom told me that there was a letter for me on my bed.

It had been six long weeks since Les Radford, W9SST and Louie Linthecomb, K9EAT had given me my novice exam. Now with shaking hands I opened the envelope from the federal communications commission. inside I found my brand new novice license, with the call sign of WN9SZL! I had made it! Now I had to get on the air!

As an inner city kid with little or no income this was not a simple thing to do. I also had several limits placed on me. Firstly, I could have nothing that used A.C. power. My dad was tired of the house going dark when I was trying to fix junk radios that I had pulled out of trash cans. Also, mom was afraid of lightning, so all antennas had to be in the attic.
It was battery power only for me.

I already had my Christmas present which was "Baylor", a five band portable receiver. So I used the harmonics of the local oscillator from a six transistor A.M. pocket radio for the B.F.O. to copy CW signals, however, I still needed a transmitter. I found in a trip to the local branch library. a old (1940's) copy of the ARRL mobile/ portable manual. inside was the answer to a new hams prayer. It was called the field day special. It was push pull Crystal Oscillator. It used a 1G6 twin triode tube, which I did not have, but I did have a 12at7 twin triode tube and a good junk box.

So, with a plate tank coil that I wound around a old toilet paper tube, a nine pin tube socket, two 47k ohm resistors, an RF choke and a dual section 365 PF tuning capacitor. I started to assemble my rig. All of the parts were removed from junk radios that I had scrounged from neighborhood trash cans. This was built on a six by eight inch plywood board. I now had my first transmitter.

I used a six volt lantern battery to heat the tube filament, ten nine volt "transistor radio" batteries gave me the ninety volts that was needed for the tube plate voltage. This gave me just under two watts input power with one watt output on 3.710 khz. Crystal controlled in the eighty meter novice band. my antenna was one hundred thirty feet of Lafayette radio number 22 "hook up wire" run down the hall way and up into the attic. I used a six turn loop around center of the tank coil and the bedroom heat register was my ground return.

I used that rig for my first four months as a novice. I listed seventeen states and four Canadian Provinces in my log book.

It proves that even a thirteen year old inner city kid on a kite string budget can build and use a working amateur radio station, from almost nothing. It also gave me more pleasure than the all mode Icom 729 that I use today.

73 from the shadow of the water tower,
Johnnie C. Mayfield
WA9SZL

The RARS
Exciter
September 2005

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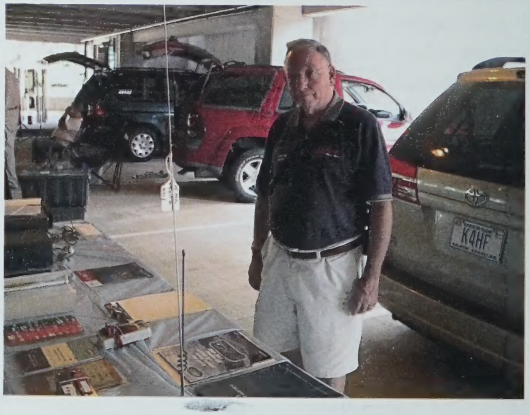
## Cary Hamfest A Success




Cary Hamfest was held July 16 in the parking garage at the Cary Community Center. On the left are Dennis K4DAM and Hank K4HM. Hank says it was "this big", but we're not sure what he was describing. On the right is Chuck K4HF with quality merchandise to sell.
Photos by Steve KJ 4BX